

Message Text

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SUBJ: OECD STUDY OF TRENDS IN SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF MAJOR
AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

REF: (A) OECD PARIS 31100 (B) STATE 241238

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. COUNCIL DISCUSSION DECEMBER 11 OF
SECGEN PROPOSAL (REF A) AND SUBSEQUENT INFORMAL DISCUSSION
AMONG KEY DELS AND SECRETARIAT HAVE SHOWN THAT ECCOMMISSION,
EC MEMBER COUNTRY, AND JAPANESE DELS WILL INSIST AS
CONDITION FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL OF AGRICULTURAL STUDY
INCLUSION OF LANGUAGE TO MAKE CLEAR THAT STUDY
BE CONDUCTED ON ASSUMPTION OF CONTINUATION OF PRESENT
POLICIES. END SUMMARY

2. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES SEC GEN CIRCULATING REVISED DOC
TO COUNCIL DECEMBER 18 WITH FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS OF PROPOSAL AS
TRANSMITTED REF A:

A. FRIST QUOTED PARAGRAPH, PARA 2 OF TEXT SEC GEN
PROPOSAL WOULD READ:

"THE OBJECT OF THE STUDY IS TO IDENTIFY AND TO
ASSESS THE MAIN FACTORS WHICH HAVE A BEARING ON THE
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TRENDS OF WORLD SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR THE MAJOR

AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES (CEREALS, FEEDSTUFFS AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS) ON THE ASSUMPTION OF THE CONTINUATION OF PRESENT POLICIES."

B. PARA C OF PROPOSED DRAFT ENTRY IN COUNCIL MINUTES
WOULD BE CHANGED TO READ:

"INVITED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO KEEP THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE INFORMED AS THE WORK PROGRESSES."

3. IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE IS NO REASONABLE POSSIBILITY OF PERSUADING EC, JAPANESE AND OTHER DELS EITHER TO DELETE, MODERATE OR NEUTRALIZE MODIFIED LANGUAGE OF REVISION "A" ABOVE. SIMANTOV, THOUGH UNHAPPY WITH MODIFICATION, STILL BELIEVES THAT USEFUL STUDY COULD BE CARRIED OUT DESPITE APPARENT CONSTRAINT OF MODIFIED VERSION, FLEXIBLY AND EXPANSIVELY USING PRECEDING LANGUAGE RE "TO ASSESS THE MAIN FACTORS WHICH HAVE A BEARING ON TRENDS.....". SECRETARIAT AND SOME DELS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO HAVING MODIFIED PROPOSAL ON GROUNDS THAT THIS WOULD CONFIRM WORST SUSPICIONS OF EC, FRENCH AND OTHER DELS AND THEREBY RENDER MUCH MORE DIFFICULT DELICATE TASK FOR SIMANTOV TO CARRY OUT STUDY IN SENSIBLE AND USEFUL WAY. REGARD AMENDMENT 2(B) ABOVE ACCEPTABLE.

3. MISSION COMMENT. MISSION BELIEVES CHOICE BEFORE US IS TO ACCEPT MODIFIED PROPOSAL OR HAVE NO STUDY AT ALL (WHICH WOULD DELIGHT FRENCH AND SOME OTHERS). ON BALANCE, WE ARE DISPOSED TO APPROVE MODIFIED PROPOSAL, ALBEIT RELUCTANTLY, AND PLAN TO DO SO IN COUNCIL UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE BEFORE DECEMBER 18.
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